GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:343
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2001
BAN ON COW SLAUGHTER
CHANDRESH PATEL KORDIA;MANSINH PATEL

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of beef exported from India and the income earned therefrom;

(b) the efforts being made and the amount spent under the specific schemes relating to breeding of cow;

(c) whether there have been demands from several organizations particularly from Sant Sammelan at Kumbh Mela for banning cow slaughter;

(d) if so, the action proposed to be taken to ban cow slaughter completely; and

(e) the names of the States where laws imposing total or partial ban on cow slaughter are in force?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH)

(a) to (e): A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.343 TO ANSWERED ON 16TH AUGUST, 2001.

(a): As per the EXIM Policy, the export of beef is totally banned. Hence the question of earning income does not arise.

(b): There is no specific scheme relating to breeding of cows. However, the Department has launched a comprehensive scheme, National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding in 2000-2001 and funds released under the scheme during the 2000-01 is Rs.2492.325 lakhs.

(c) & (d): A number of organizations through appeals/requests and some Members of Parliament through Parliament Questions/Resolutions and private Members Bill have been demanding a total ban on cow slaughter in India and formulation of an adequate legislation for this purpose. This request includes the demand made in the Sant Sammelanat Kumbh Mela in Allahabad in January, 2001.

Article 48 of the Directive Principle of State Policy of the Constitution of India, enjoins that `the State shall endeavor to organize agriculture and animal husbandry on modern and scientific lines and shall, in particular, take steps for preserving and improving the breeds, and prohibiting the slaughter of cows and calves and milch and draught cattle.`

The preservation of cattle is a matter in which the State Legislatures have exclusive powers to legislate.

The three different Constitution benches of the Supreme Court who heard the litigations and appeal held that due to constitutional, religious, political and socio-economic constraints the Union Government cannot bring forward or undertake a central legislation to impose a complete ban on cow slaughter.

(e): A statement as per Annexure `A`.

Annexure-A

Name of the States which have enacted legislation for banning/restricting cow slaughter

The following States have enacted legislation for banning/restricting the slaughter of cow and its progeny.

1. Andhra Pradesh

2. Assam

3. Bihar

4. Goa

5. Gujarat
6. Haryana

7 Himachal Pradesh

8. Jammu & Kashmir

9. Karnataka
10. Madhya Pradesh
11. Maharashtra
12. Orissa
13. Punjab
14. Rajasthan
15. Sikkim
16. Tamil Nadu
17. Uttar Pradesh
18. West Bengal
19. Manipur

Position in Union Territories regarding cow slaughter

The following UTs have enacted legislation for banning/restricting the slaughter of cow and its progeny:-

1. Andaman & Nicobar Islands

2. National Capital Territory of Delhi

3. Chandigarh

4. Dadra and Nagar Haveli

5. Daman & Diu
6. Pondicherry

The Union Territory of Lakshadweep does not have any provision.